

ST. MARY'S, CHELTENHAM.—The parish church of St. Mary, Cheltenham, has recently been undergoing repairs. The woodwork of the roof of the south aisles, almost throughout its entire length where it abuts upon the wall of the nave, was found much decayed, but has now been effectually repaired. The organ, which has stood for many years in a loft at the west end of the nave, above the general tier of galleries, having become much out of repair, has been taken down, which has had the effect of throwing open a very beautiful decorated window, the upper part of which had hitherto been entirely concealed. The organ will not again be erected in the same situation, but will probably be placed in the south transept. The chancel also has been improved by removing the upper part of the altarpiece, that almost concealed the tracery of a fine window in the east end. The design of the altarpiece is Corinthian, and it is very well carried out. It is entirely of oak, in excellent preservation, and was removed from Gloucester Cathedral about forty years ago; but the style is quite incongruous, and it seems not improbable that ere long the whole will be removed, to give place to the more simple design which it conceals; the window having an embattled moulding at the springing of the arch; the part below being filled in with stonework between the mullions, and having been decorated with wall paintings, portions of which still remain. The present churchwardens have been actively engaged in cleaning off the numerous coats of whitewash and colour which their predecessors had imposed; but much still remains to be done. The windows of the church are very good: there is a very beautiful circular window in the north transept, and some with good flowing tracery. The general proportions and the details of the building are good, but the effect is much injured by the high pews and unsightly galleries, which have from time to time been erected, in order to obtain increased accommodation.

THE IRON RAILING ROUND ST. PAUL'S.—The other day, when Mr. Cockerell declared, before the City deputation to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, that the iron railing round St. Paul's was an ornament to the building—or, in other words, an integral part of the structure,—it is only fair to assume that he spoke in his capacity of architect to the Dean and Chapter, and not from his chair as professor of architecture in the Royal Academy. The iron railing, it is true, is of the age of Wren, and was possibly designed by him, but it is not an ornament to the structure, or in any way an integral part of the whole design. Mr. Cockerell spoke to please others, and we are disposed to transfer the blame of his assertion from the person employed to the persons who employ. The Dean and Chapter look on the iron railing as a military outwork of St. Paul's, the surrender of which may lead to fresh attacks on the church—to the abolition of the twopences of show-mooney, and the throwing open to the public of the great West door.—*Athenaeum*.

THE IRON TRADE.—More blast furnaces are being blown out, and a struggle between masters and men, on the question of further reducing wages, is threatened. Iron, as a raw material, at present seems to be a "drug" in the markets not only of England and Scotland, but of America too. As to prices, 4l. 10s. for common bars were recently taken in Wales, but *Aris's Birmingham Gazette* speaks of 5l. 40s. for bar-iron, and hoops for 5l. 15s., delivered in Birmingham or Liverpool. The yield of pig-iron in Scotland has been greatly reduced by the strike in Lanarkshire; but any thing like a steady rise of price in consequence is not expected. The *Birmingham Journal*, in quoting the Board of Trade returns, to show that the exports of machinery, hardware, iron, and steel, have increased, as we are glad to say they have done, from 593,967l. in October last, to 818,361l. in March, nevertheless "concocted (and with truth) that the value of the hardware and machinery exported is no test of the activity of the iron trade, seeing that the cost of labour in these articles exceeds the value of the material."

THE REPRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT OF PAUPERS.—Mr. P. Scrope has given notice to move a resolution in the Commons, that all capable paupers be employed in useful and reproductive labour.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 15th June, for finishing three houses at Hastings; by 7th, for the restoration of St. Martin's Church, West Drayton,—designs by Mr. C. Innes, of Philip-lane, City, architect; by 3rd, for the formation of an additional building in the yard of the workhouse in St. Martin's-in-the-fields; by 5th, for painting and repairing gas lanterns and fittings for the trustees of the parish of St. Mary, Islington; by 29th May, for the erection of a turret eight-day clock to the Townhall of Southmolton, Devon; by 28th, for 520 feet run of Herm or Aberdeen granite kerb, 1,750 feet run of like granite kerb, also 6,030 feet super. 3-inch tooled Yorkshire paving stone, and 34 yards super. 4-inch by 6-inch dressed granite pitching, for the Highway Board for West Ham, Stratford, Essex; by 28th, for the execution of the work of gas fittings to the station buildings of the Great Northern Railway Company, Maiden Lane, London; by a date not specified (names by 25th), for the erection of an institution for the blind, at Birmingham, Messrs. Hemmings, of Temple-row, there, architects; by 1st June, for an improvement of the turnpike-road at Gospel-end, specifications, &c., by Mr. J. Ritson, of Upper Gornall, near Sedley, surveyor; by a date not specified, for five almshouses at Richmond-hill (bricks to be found at 19s. a thousand); by a date not specified, for the execution of the works required in erecting a school for 500, and residence for master, in St. Paul's district, Leeds, design by Mr. Barleigh, of 40, Albion street there, architect; by 27th inst., for two cast-iron purifiers, and various other articles, for the Boston Gas-light and Coke Company; by 1st June, for building a stone wall near Worcester, Mr. E. Lucy, of 61, Sidbury, there, surveyor; by 28th inst., for 700 yards Kentish rag siftings for the Hammer-smith Board of Surveyors; and by 30th, for 10 fathoms yellow deal ends and 3 cwt. of wood tyers, for the workhouse authorities, Falmouth.

COMPETITION.—Designs are wanted for a pauper school at Sutton, Surrey; particulars as advertised.

THE MODEL HOUSES IN STREETHAM-STREET, BLOOMSBURY are now nearly ready for occupation, and were opened to private view on Tuesday. Having already presented our readers with an illustrated description of this building, we have little to add, except that separate staircases have been dispensed with, as well as other internal communications, between the different storeys, and one common staircase, to galleries or corridors leading to the outer doors of the separate suites or tenements, adopted, in the belief, which we hope may not be a mistaken one, that the window-tax on the whole will thus be avoided, each suite containing less than seven windows.

BUILDING AND ENGINEERING WORKMAN'S PROVIDENT AND AID SOCIETY.—The following sums have already been subscribed in aid of this undertaking:—Messrs. Baker, 100l., T. Cubitt, 100l., W. Cubitt, M.P., 100l., J. B. Bunning, 50l., C. R. Cockerell, R.A., 50l., P. Hardwick, R.A., 50l., Messrs. Lee, 31l. 10s., S. Angell, 30l., I. K. Brunel, 25l., R. Stephenson, 25l., T. Piper, 21l., Messrs. Piper, 21l., W. Tate, 21l., C. Ansell, 10l. 10s., W. Cotton, 10l. 10s., S. Grimesdell, 10l. 10s., H. J. Prescott, 10l. 10s., H. Roberts, 10l. 10s., T. L. Donaldson, 5l. 5s., F. C. Penton, 5l. 5s., C. C. Nelson, 5l. 5s., G. Wales, 5l. 5s.

THE LATE JAMES THOM, THE SCULPTOR.—This self-taught artist died at New York, on 17th ult., of consumption, at the age of 51 years. He left Ayrshire, and went to America some years since in search of his freestone group "Tam O'Shanter and Souter Johnnie," or its value, and never returned. Besides this somewhat celebrated work, which was finally deposited in Burns's cenotaph at Ayr, and the group of "Old Mortality," perhaps his next most noticeable work was the sculpture and ornamentation of the Gothic Church of the Trinity, at New York. Mr. Thom has left a widow and two children in that city.

MOZAICS AND MODELLING.—We have recently seen some excellent mosaic work by M. Ganser, an artist, from Munich, of the school of Schwabthaler, who has taken up his residence in England. He appears to have considerable skill in designing and modelling friezes, &c., for plasterwork decorations.

IMPROVEMENTS IN ROCK-CUTTING APPARATUS.—Mr. Newton, of Chancery-lane, has patented improvements in machinery for dressing, shaping, cutting, and drilling, or boring rocks or stones, and partly for driving piles. Amongst the claims are the use of cutters of circular metal plates mounted on a shaft, such cutters to pass over the surface of the substance operated on with a rolling motion; also the use of cutters, supported on a rotary stock, which act upon the surface by impact, or by striking against it. Also a combination of friction cylinders, with treadle and barrel to raise the boring tool by winding a cord.

THE LAND SURVEYORS' ASSOCIATION.—A petition to Parliament from the land surveyors of Great Britain is now in course of signature at 31, University-street, Bedford-square. It prays the Legislature "to avert the ruin with which they are threatened, by withdrawing the Ordnance surveyors from local works and replacing them upon the national survey, which will fully occupy them for many years to come, and from which they were removed to survey the metropolis, and for other civil work, to the great disadvantage of the public, and injury of the petitioners, who have thus been deprived of their employment, while they have to contribute towards the maintenance of that body which has so unfairly superseded them."

EXCAVATIONS AT LYMNE.—Mr. Elliott and Mr. Roach Smith, aided by a few friends, are at the present moment engaged in laying open the foundations of the Roman castrum at Lymne, previous to making excavations in the interior of the station. The walls of the castrum enclose about ten acres. The soil has accumulated to the depth of from 3 to 4 feet over the Roman level, which, added to the extensive circuit of the walls, and the shattered and dislocated condition of the foundations, will demand a considerable outlay of money to defray the expense of labour. Up to the present day, the foundations of about nine round towers and two postern entrances have been laid open. The Treasury, in reply to a memorial asking aid, say they have no funds available for such a purpose; and contributions are now sought from such as feel the importance of such investigations.

VENTILATION OF THE COMMONS.—Dr. Reid has petitioned to be allowed to bring his case personally before the Commons.

A NEW MODE OF GENERATING STEAM.—An American correspondent writes:—"A new mode of generating steam has been put into successful operation in Virginia—a mode that avoids completely all risk of an explosion. No boiler is used, the steam is raised by means of a small jet of cold water injected upon a large plug of iron fixed in the surface. I will forward a description as soon as I can obtain particulars."

VENTILATION OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—There has been much said and written on the subject of the National Gallery, and the injury the pictures have sustained, and are sustaining, from dust and a fetid atmosphere. The remedy for this is so simple and inexpensive that it is surprising it has never occurred to parties to adopt it. If any person requires a practical proof of the necessity of well ventilating the upper part of a heated room, let them go into a large kitchen, where they are cooking and using charcoal. Let them then mount a ladder and try the atmosphere near the ceiling, and they will find they can scarcely breathe, and a candle will with difficulty burn; the fetid air having no means of escape, and which is worse, all this bad and foul air must descend and make its escape by a door or window. This is the evil at the National Gallery and the great cause of the mischief the pictures have sustained and will sustain till the simple remedy is applied of having ventilation flues near the upper part of the rooms. W. W.

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

To be held during the coming week.

MONDAY, May 27.—Institution of British Architects, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, May 28.—Institution of Civil Engineers.

WEDNESDAY, May 29.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, May 30.—Society of Antiquaries, 8 p.m.; Royal Society, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, May 31.—Archæological Association, 8 p.m.